

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 02654 241116Z

17 15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 AGR-20 EB-11 IGA-02 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 COME-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 H-03 DRC-01

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P 241045Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 166

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2654

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, CE

SUBJ: PL 480 ALLOCATION

REFS: COLOMBO 2642 AND COLOMBO 2632

1. AUSTIN FERNANDO, DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RESOURCES, MINISTRY OF PLANNING, ASKED AMB OCT 24 ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT RE OUR 20,000 TON PL 480 ALLOTMENT. FERNANDO SAID GSL WOULD LIKE TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT BUT DID NOT WANT TO DO SO UNTIL IT HAD BEEN "FORMALLY ADVISED OF ALLOTMENT" AND POSSIBLE DELIVERY DATES. I TOLD FERNANDO THAT GSL HAD ALREADY BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED OF ALLOTMENT, BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND COLOMBO, BUT THAT WE WOULD CHECK FURTHER WITH WASHINGTON RE ANNOUNCEMENT.

2. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THERE IS CONSIDERABLE MERIT IN ANNOUNCEMENT A) TO GAIN MAXIMUM POLITICAL AND PUBLIC CREDIT FOR ALLOTMENT; B) TO OFF-SET

OPPOSITION PARTIES ALLEGATIONS UNITED FRONT GOVTS (UFG) FAILURE TO PROVIDE AID IS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, AND C) TO HELP OVERCOME
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PAGE 02 COLOMB 02654 241116Z

AWKWARD POSITION IN WHICH USG HAS BEEN PLACED

DUE TO ITS INABILITY PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
WHILE OTHER AID DONORS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FULFILL
THEIR COMMITMENTS. WE RECOGNIZE HOWEVER THAT
ALLOCATION IS ONLY ONE STEP IN PROCESS WHICH
CULMINATES IN SIGNING OF PL 480 AGREEMENT.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE:

WE SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT WE INFORM GSL THAT
IT MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:
"THE UNITED STATES GOVT HAS INFORMED THE GOVT OF SRI
LANKA THAT, IN VIEW OF THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE TWO CUNTRIES, THE USG HAS BEEN ABLE
TO ALLOCATE 20,000 TONS OF PL 480 WHEAT FLOUR FOR
SRI LANKA DESPITE THE EXTREMELY TIGHT PL 480 SUPPLY
SITUATION. FURTHER DETAILS OF THIS ALLOCATION,
INCLUDING FORMAL SIGNING OF THE PL 480 AGREEMENT,
WILL BE WORKED OUT PROMPTLY BETWEEN THE TWO
GOVERNMENTS. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THIS WHEAT
FLOUR WILL BE SHIPPED TO SRI LANKA EARLY NEXT YEAR".

END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

4. PLEASE ADVISE PRIORITY.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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